

The City of Marion, South Carolina

SWAMP FOX SCENE

A FREE monthly news magazine for
the citizens and visitors of the Swamp Fox City



Volume 7, Issue 8

January 2018

Marion Christmas Tree Lighting



Marion's Christmas Tree Lighting was absolutely exquisite. What an amazing show Morris Ward outlined from the opening dance to Emmalyn Davis School of Dance to the Finale Dance performed by Justine Roberts Dance

Academy. Mayor Ashley Brady welcomed the citizens and guests. The Pre-Christmas show began with a performance from Emmalyn Davis School of Dance. The courthouse steps were lined with children from Easterling Primary School with 2nd Graders rendering Christmas songs. The reading of the Christmas Story was by Mr. Darrell Jameson. Also performing was Mrs. Amber Brigman singing "O Holy Night." Those who didn't hear Mrs. Brigman really missed a treat. She was amazing. The Marion County Christian Academy also performed at the event. There were thousands of people crowding the street to witness this year's Christmas Prelude and Tree Lighting Celebration.

Special Thanks to Morris Ward, his crews, Mr. Winky Fore and his crew and all who worked diligently to make this year's event special. Fireworks followed immediately at Withlacoochee Park. Again, we thank everyone for everything you do to make Marion a better place.

City Annual Arbor Day



The Azalea Garden Club and others in the community gathered on November 30, 2017 on the Marion Hike-Bike Trail for the annual Arbor Day Celebration. The planting of three Muskogee Crepe Myrtles was in honor of Mrs. Sandy Levy, Mrs. Katharine Beeson and Mr. J. Wayne George.



The Marion Azalea Garden Club sponsored a Poster contest for students at Marion Intermediate School. The school had three winners: Georeana Taylor won with first place; Ava Gainey earned second place; and Nathan Brown received third place.

Mrs. Melanie Dozier, principal, took the students to the Arbor Day event in downtown Marion on November 30, 2017 where they displayed their poster to the members of the Azalea Garden Club and other distinguished guests. We are so proud of our students for their wonderful accomplishments.



Marion Christmas Parade

The Chamber would like to thank all those who came out Saturday, December 2nd to the Christmas Parade. It was a wonderful day and a big thank you to our Grand Marshall, Little Miss South Carolina, Jenna Grace Causey from Horry County. The chamber would also like to thank Anderson Brothers Bank, the City of Marion, and Pee Dee Federal Savings Bank for sponsoring the commercial floats in the parade.

Happy New Year

I want to extend best wishes and Happy New Year to all the citizens of Marion! It is an honor and privilege to serve as your Mayor. I am very honored, and extremely excited, to be seated in this center seat, especially with such a hard-working, dedicated council whose sole purpose is to help move the City of Marion forward. Our future is bright with many additions to our community. I have witnessed through my small time as mayor that teamwork, determination, and communication is the formula for accomplishment.

Another vital part of our community is our dedicated employees, our public safety personnel, and especially our generous volunteers who continue to serve selflessly and tirelessly on our boards and committees. Thank you for all your hard work and commitment over the past year. You are the pillar of our community, and you all deserve our acknowledgment.

Thanks and prayers to our law enforcement, fire, and rescue squad personnel, and the county emergency management team, who continually put their lives on the line to protect us. We support you and we are grateful for your service. Thank you.

My best wishes to all of our wonderful citizens and businesses for the coming year as we continue our vision so that we can say, "I'm glad I live in Marion."

Have a Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year!

Mayor Ashley Brady



Save the date!
January 6, 2018
Time to be determined.
Basketball Jamboree

For more information about game times and schedules, please contact us at 423-5410 and check with us on Facebook under Marion Recreation Department or www.marionsc.gov.

Games to be played at AC Tollison Gym and Shannon Wilkerson Gym. We will be looking to seeing your face in the place. Lets the games begin!!!

NEED HELP?

Call City Hall, 843-423-5961, unless otherwise noted, and one of the following will be able to help you.

- Mayor Ashley Brady**, (843) 992-3773
- Alan Ammons**, City Administrator & Building Official, Ext. 19
- Lakesha Shannon**, City Clerk, Ext. 10
- Patricia Brown**, City Treasurer, Ext. 18
- Ainsley Sanders**, Administrative Assistant, Ext. 11
- Elizabeth Gray**, Personnel & Purchasing Director, (843) 423-8614
- Vickie J. Nichols**, Grant Writing & Publicist, Ext. 22
- Kimberly Elliott**, Recreation Director, (843) 423-5410
- Dewayne Tennie**, Police Chief, (843) 423-8616
- Chris Smith**, Captain, (843) 423-8616
- Tony Flowers**, Investigator, (843) 423-8616
- Marilyn Rogers**, Investigator, (843) 423-8616
- Trey Cooper**, Fire Chief, (843) 423-8602
- Jackie Yates**, Assistant Fire Chief (843) 464-8602
- Heather Evans**, Municipal Court Clerk, (843) 423-8616
- Almeta Mullins**, Secretary, (843) 423-8616

Marion Chamber announces Yard of the Month



Alberto and Stephanie Alba have been awarded the Marion Chamber of Commerce Yard of the Month for December 2017. The Chamber is proud to recognize those in our community that work so diligently, and add so much to our community's unique character. Mr. & Mrs. Alba will receive a Marion Chamber of Commerce Chamber Check in recognition of this honor.

Employment Opportunities

The City of Marion is a great place to work! We employ approximately 80 full-time associates who are our most valuable assets. Our goal is to recruit and retain the best qualified applicants and to maintain a productive and competitive workforce in the delivery of services to the citizens of Marion.

Current Employment Opportunities

- Fire Department: NFPA Firefighter II**
- Police Department: Class I Law Enforcement Officer**

It is our policy to fill all vacant positions with the best qualified candidates based on skills, knowledge, abilities and suitability to the City's needs. The City of Marion is a drug free work environment and is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex, religion, national origin, race, disability or political affiliation.

Qualified candidates may pick up applications at City Hall. If you are in need of special accommodation for any portion of the application or hiring process, please contact the ADA Coordinator, Elizabeth Gray.

The Swamp Fox Scene is the City of Marion's Free monthly newspaper for citizens and visitor's of the Swamp Fox City, Marion, South Carolina. Printed by Herald Multiforms in Dillon, city employees produce and distribute the newspaper.

The Marion Chamber and HMRA help pay printing costs.

A PDF version is available by e-mail or online. For more information about the newspaper, call Mayor Ashley Brady or City Administrator Alan Ammons at (843) 423-5961.

Moody is city's October employee of the Month



Richard Moody has been employed with the City of Marion since 2009. He began in the Sanitation Department and transferred to his current position at the Marion Recreation Department as custodian for our many recreation facilities and buildings in the fall of 2017.

"Mr. Richard is a great employee and a huge asset to the Marion Recreation Department," said Director Kim Elliott, adding that he is "always kind, friendly and willing to help out wherever he can."

Richard has been previously recognized by city officials for his strong work ethic and positive attitude. He was the named Employee of the Month for September 2011 and July 2013. Richard is also employed part-time with the Marion Presbyterian Church. He and his wife, Brenda, are lifelong residents of Marion.

The Mayor and Council recognized Richard Moody for his dedication to the Marion Recreation Department at the November 14th Council Meeting.

Second 2017 Arbor Day Celebration



On December 1st the City of Marion and The Azalea Garden Club planted a Sugar Maple Tree in remembrance of Francis Marion "The Swamp Fox" in a second 2017 celebration of Arbor Day. Rev. Denley Caughman spoke of

the history of General Francis Marion and how the City of Marion got its name. Ms. Rhonda Todd and Holly Evans from the Marion County Library read stories and sung songs to the children from First Baptist Church about the importance of trees. Ms. Ronda, Youth Services Assistant at the Marion Library, read "A Tree is Nice" by Janice May Udry, winner of the Caldecott Medal in 1957. This story, simply illustrated, serves as a reminder of the beauty and usefulness of nature. Children answered questions about camping and other outdoor activities to engage them in both the story and in the Arbor Day event. If you are interested in checking out this book, please stop by the Marion Library where they can also help you find other great books celebrating trees and nature. This event was held at the County Square near the Francis Marion Statue.

City continues caring for neighbors



For the eighth consecutive year, City of Marion residents, civic clubs and businesses have reached out to those less fortunate and given generously to

help others have a wonderful Christmas meal. Police officers and firefighters distributed 100 food boxes to families. At a cost of \$40 each, the city raised more than \$4,900 for the project.

The Department of Social Services recommends the recipients for the donations. Mayor Ashley Brady and City Administrator Alan Ammons are truly appreciative of the donations that have been and will be made. Any money that comes in after the distribution will be held until next year's for our Annual Christmas Food Box Project.

Marion Police Department would like for everyone to have a safe and happy new year, but remember, public safety is our number one concern.

Filing opens January 10th for Board of Education elections;

The Board of Education Election for seats in Districts 1, 3, 4 and 5 will be on Tuesday, April 10th. The state's new Voter ID law, requires that each voter has an identification card with a photograph of the voter on it. Filing for candidates begins Wednesday, Jan. 10th at noon and closes on Thursday, Feb. 8th at noon. The last day to register to vote in the April election is March 11th. To find out more about having a proper ID at vote, visit the Marion County Voter Registration and Election Commission located 2523 E. Highway 76 or call Teresa Moody at 423-8268.

Additionally, political signs may only be displayed on private property. City ordinances prohibit the placement of signs on public property, including the right of way.

Signs picked up for being improperly posted may be collected at the Marion Fire Department on Bond Street and can be claimed by candidates.

Recycle your Christmas Tree!

Christmas trees can be dropped off at the Marion Fire Department on Bond Street in the parking lot. Please remove all decorations before leaving the trees. If you have any questions, please call the fire department at (843) 423-8602 or the City of Marion at (843) 423-5961. Thanks!

Wishing you a Happy New Year with hope that you will have many blessings in the year to come. Randy Brown and Winky Fore and the Public Works Department!!



January 1st - City Offices Closed in observance of New Year Day; reopen 8:00 a.m. January 2nd.

January 3rd - 8:30 a.m. **Rise and Shine** at 610 Studio Fitness at 610 N. Main Street.

January 6th - **Basketball Jamboree. Marion Recreation Department.** AC Tollison Gym and Shannon Wilkerson Gym. Time to be determined.

January 9th - 6:30 p.m. City Council Meeting, Council Chambers.

January 15th - **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day** - City Offices Closed.

January 16th - **Relay for Life Kick Off** - We will be meeting at 6:00 p.m. at Carolinas Hospital in Marion, classroom A. If you are a cancer survivor we will be meeting with you at 5:30 p.m. to update you on events going on for you.

January 25th - 6:30 p.m. **Marion Chamber of Commerce, Annual Meeting, Woodhaven.** Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Dinner, Awards and Auction.

Brown is city's November employee of the Month



City Mechanic Terry Brown is a fairly new addition to the City staff, having started at the Shop in October 2017. His work ethic and the quality of his work quickly earned him the respect of his fellow employees and the City's senior staff. Terry works efficiently, and is always looking for ways to save the City money on parts and repairs.

Terry is a lifelong resident of Marion. He has three daughters and five grandchildren.

The Mayor and Council recognized Terry Brown for his dedication and contributions to the City of Marion at the December 12th Council Meeting.

Let this New Year be the one, where all your dreams come true, so with a joyful heart, put a start to this year anew. Wishing you a happy and prosperous New Year 2018. Thank you everyone for your support and involvement in the governing process this last year.

Happy New Year's from the City Administrator Alan Ammons and City Hall Staff!!!

Let's give a warm welcome to the year that starts a new, cherish each moment that the year shall behold, so let's come together and celebrate a blissful start to the New Year.

Marion City Council

CHILI COOK-OFF

HMRA is working on planning the 9th Annual Chili Cook Off. Save the date: **Saturday, February 24!** Are you a chili cooker? Do you know someone who would like to enter? Call Stephanie at **843-423-9918** for more details or check out their website www.theswampfox.org. Free to enter!

Remember to mark your calendar for this great event. You don't want to miss it.

We are looking for chili cookers.

.....**GOING ON IN MARION**.....

City Rentals

We are starting a **NEW YEAR**, which means the NEW rental calendar is accepting reservations for Grice’s, Shannon Wilkerson Gymnasium and Watsonia Recreation facilities. These facilities hold up to 150 people are equipped with warming kitchens, heating/air and restrooms. Also, Pop Dorsey Picnic Shelter located on **Green Street** for those looking for an outside event. Make sure that you get your event booked as soon as possible. So to reserved your date for that special occasion give us a call at (843) 423-5410.

CDJ Aerobics

Aerobics classes are offered Monday thru Friday evening, from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. at CD Joyner. Taught by Ms. Lillie Ann Sanders, the classes are \$30 per month. For information or details, call Recreation Department at 423-5410.

Ping Pong Club

Don’t forget that Marion Recreation holds a Ping Pong Club every Monday & Wednesday from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm. You can come by on one of these days and freshen up on your ping pong skills, watch some games or learn how to play. For details, call 423-5410.

Basketball sign-up is over; Tips for Spectators

The Recreation Department had a great turnout for basketball sign-ups; the coaches and players have practiced all the way to Christmas break and now it’s time to play some ball!

Everyone looks forward to seeing the children having a great time while learning the fundamentals of basketball. The public is invited to come and support the community, your child, your neighbor’s child and the coaches.

Below are 17 tips to help you be a better spectator.

- ❖ I will not force my child to participate.
- ❖ I will remember that children play to have fun.
- ❖ I will learn the rules of the game and the league policies.
- ❖ I and my guests will be positive role models and encourage sportsmanship.
- ❖ I and my guests will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct.
- ❖ I will not encourage anything that would endanger the athletes.
- ❖ I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts peacefully.
- ❖ I will demand that my child treat others with respect.
- ❖ I will teach my child that doing one’s best is more important than winning.
- ❖ I will offer praise for competing fairly and trying hard.
- ❖ I will never ridicule or yell at my child or others for a mistake or losing.
- ❖ I will emphasize skill development and practice and de-emphasize games and competition, especially in the younger age groups.
- ❖ I will promote the emotional and physical well-being of the athletes.
- ❖ I will respect the officials and coaches and their authority and decisions.
- ❖ I will demand a sports environment free from drugs, tobacco and alcohol.
- ❖ I will refrain from coaching, unless I am one, my child or others during games and practices.
- ❖ I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that could affect the safety of my child or others.

For more information about game times and schedules, please contact us at 423-5410 and check with us on Facebook.

Senior Aerobics at Watsonia Center

Senior Aerobics has resumed and there are still some spots for newcomers. Classes are on Monday and Thursday, from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. The instructor is Mrs. Anna Boatwright. All classes are FREE, but donations are appreciated to help defer cost of the class. If you haven’t participated before, please come out and register at the Marion Recreation Department.

Senior Bingo

We offer Senior Bingo the on first & third Thursday of each month from 8:30 a.m. –9:30 a.m. at Watsonia Recreation. Bingo is **FREE** of charge and we welcome newcomers to come join in on the fun. We offer prizes for the winners and refreshments for you to enjoy while playing. We do have a 2 card playing limit. Come check us out and bring some friends to join in.

It’s Tip off Time!!

Marion Recreation Department will kick off its 2018 Basketball season in January after the holiday season. All are invited to come out to the games to enjoy and support these young local athletes and coaches. We will be looking to seeing your face in the place.

Here is our admissions fee schedule:
Season Pass: \$5.00 (inclusive for Basketball)
Adult: \$2.00
Kids : 12 and under - **FREE**

City’s Playgrounds

The following City of Marion playgrounds provide free fun and are open to the public:

Withlacoochee Park

Withlacoochee Ave - This park has a walking track and playground equipment. This site holds Marion’s Tennis Courts.

Grice’s Recreation Center

603 Gurley Street - The playground has been updated with new playground equipment. This site also has a basketball court behind the center and is near the walking track.

Tilghman Park

409 Montgomery Street - It also has slides, hobby horses, swings and a merry-go-round.

Spring Sports sign-ups

The City of Marion Recreation Department is starting spring softball and baseball sign ups. Sign-ups will began January 2, 2018. Cost is \$21.00. For more information about game times and schedules, please contact us at 423-5410 and check with us on Facebook under Marion Recreation Department or [www. Marionsc.gov](http://www.Marionsc.gov).

We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year’s Day.

Kim Elliott and the Marion Recreation Department!

Marion Fire Department wants to wish everyone a Happy New Year! We look forward to continuing our service to the community in 2018, and wish to thank everyone for your support in 2017.